

This is Ralph's story, as reported recently in Focus on Carlsbad magazine. Ralph worked in the oilfields. One day, in 2006, on his way home, he was almost killed in a traffic accident. In an instant, his life was changed forever. He spent 6 weeks in intensive care and then 3½ months at a rehabilitation hospital. He survived but was left a quadriplegic. Ralph McGary had to face tremendous loss, and then he had to decide how to move forward with his life.

It is impossible for any of us to fully realize what an ordeal that must have been for Ralph or what courage and determination it has required of him every single day just to keep going, just to find his way on a path that he never imagined he would be on. But move forward he did. Drawing upon his own valiant spirit and with the help of others, among his family and in his community. His is a classic American story of self-reliance and community support.

He found valuable allies at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in Carlsbad. Despite his severe physical impairment, Ralph still wanted to work, still wanted to be as productive as his condition would allow. DVR is a State-Federal organization. Its mission is to work with folks like Ralph to find employment, to help them overcome their disabilities.

DVR provided Ralph with a computer and a special voice recognition software. His counselor at DVR, Barry Jolly, explained:

We worked with him to develop a plan. That included going back to school and completing his degree. We don't just identify employment. We identify a strategy to get from where you are to where you need to be.

Ralph is still on that journey getting from where he has been to where he needs to be. He requires 24-hour care. His family, like so many others, tried to provide that care at home for as long as they could. For now, Ralph resides at a local nursing care facility. Most of his disability income pays for his nursing home care. He keeps about \$60 a month. But his dream of greater independence continues. He dreams of some day being able to adapt his home to accommodate his needs.

In the meantime, he earned his associate's degree from the New Mexico State University-Carlsbad. Last year, he obtained a part-time job at the Jeff Diamond Law Firm. The firm had helped him obtain his Social Security disability benefits, and SSA allows him to earn a certain amount of money each month without reducing his disability income.

In his work at the law firm, Ralph calls himself the "reminder guy." He calls clients to remind them of their appointments or other matters relating to their disability claims. He knows their struggles. He understands what they are going through. His job not only provides some extra income, it boosts his morale and his connection to his community, and the McGary family is very much a part of the community.

His wife, Susan, has taught at Carlsbad schools for over three decades.

Jolly told Focus on Carlsbad that:

Ralph is a determined man and a sharp individual. I used to work in the oilfields too, so I think we speak the same language. I think one of his strengths is his ability to get along with other people and his understanding of how things work.

Those are admirable qualities—getting along with others. Understanding how things work. We need more of that here in Washington, DC. People like Ralph McGary should expect no less of us. Ralph faced his challenges. We should face ours.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13405 OF JUNE 16, 2006, WITH RESPECT TO BELARUS—PM 12

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2013.

In 2012, the Government of Belarus continued its crackdown against political opposition, civil society, and independent media. The September 23 elections failed to meet international

standards. The government arbitrarily arrested, detained, and imprisoned citizens for criticizing officials or for participating in demonstrations; imprisoned at least one human rights activist on manufactured charges; and prevented independent media from disseminating information and materials. These actions show that the Government of Belarus has not taken steps forward in the development of democratic governance and respect for human rights.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions, to commit human rights abuses related to political repression, and to engage in public corruption continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 13, 2013.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:27 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 634. An act to provide end user exemptions from certain provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

H.R. 742. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Commodity Exchange Act to repeal the indemnification requirements for regulatory authorities to obtain access to swap data required to be provided by swaps entities under such Acts.

H.R. 2167. An act to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish additional requirements to improve the fiscal safety and soundness of the home equity conversion mortgage insurance program.

At 3:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1038. An act to provide equal treatment for utility special entities using utility operations-related swaps, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1256. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to jointly adopt rules setting forth the application to cross-border swaps transactions of certain provisions relating to swaps that were enacted as part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

At 5:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2217. An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for